

JIMMY CARTER LIBRARY

Registration Statement

Emily Gordy Dolvin

Accession No.: 92-11

Date Processing Completed: July 1993

Emily Gordy Dolvin, better known as "Aunt Sissy," is a sister of Jimmy Carter's mother, Lillian Gordy Carter. By the time of Jimmy Carter's political career, Emily Dolvin was a Roswell, Georgia, resident who was an active volunteer in Jimmy Carter's political campaigns for governor of Georgia and President of the United States. She began to campaign in 1966 during Jimmy Carter's first bid for the governorship of Georgia. The material in this collection is not primarily biographical information on Emily Dolvin's life, but rather chronicles her nephew's political career. Most of the material dates from Carter's 1970 gubernatorial campaign to the 1980s. Most of the material is on his political campaigns from Emily Dolvin's unique perspective.

Description: These papers consist of campaign speeches, memorabilia, manuscripts, correspondence, campaign itineraries, photographs, and audiotapes.

Quantity:

Donor: These donated historical materials were received under provisions of the instrument of gift of Emily Gordy Dolvin signed November 16, 1992.

Restrictions:

Copyright: Copyright interest in these papers has been donated to the United States Government.

Related Material: Carter/Smith Family Oral History Project and Vertical File, Carter, Jimmy - Family.

Scope and Content Note

Emily Gordy Dolvin grew up in Richland, about twenty miles east of Plains, Georgia. She became a school teacher until she married William Jasper Dolvin, who was a school principal and insurance agent. Emily Dolvin helped her husband for years in the insurance office. In 1966 she left this business for a political career and soon became known as "Jimmy Carter's Aunt Sissy." She served as staff member, host, and delegate at the Georgia Democratic Party in 1970. She has held the following posts: 1971 inauguration reception chairman for Carter's inauguration as governor of Georgia, member of the Commission on the Status of Women from August 11, 1972, to April 1, 1974. She oversaw all volunteer activities for her nephew's 1966 and 1970 campaigns for governor and traveled extensively for Carter's two campaigns for President of the United States, working with the Peanut Brigade.

In addition, she has been a longtime participant in civic, women's and church organizations in Roswell, Georgia, where she now resides. Since the 1986 dedication of the Carter Center, she has served as coordinator of the docents.

"Aunt Sissy" and President Carter's close relationship is evident in many ways. After serving as governor of Georgia for only six months, he revealed to her that he intended to run for President. This is something that no one would have imagined at that time. This was just one of many such moments shared by the President and his aunt that is recounted in the manuscript she prepared for possible publication.

As an official representative of the 1976 Carter campaign, Emily Dolvin traveled to many parts of the country to speak on behalf of her nephew. Much of this collection focuses on her recollections of the Carter clan as they campaigned for Jimmy Carter. This collection is divided into three series: the Emily Dolvin File, the Tom Gordy File, and the Jimmy Carter File. The Emily Dolvin File includes Ms. Dolvin's manuscript on Carter family campaigning and memoranda addressed to her. The Tom Gordy File consists of Tom Gordy's diary which he kept as a prisoner of war in World War II. Within the Jimmy Carter File are eight segments which cover Jimmy Carter's political career: the 1970 campaign for governor, the gubernatorial inauguration, service as governor, 1976 campaign for the presidency, presidential inauguration, service as President, 1980 presidential campaign, and the post-presidential period. The material reveals the vigorous schedule of the Carter campaign workers.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

<u>Container</u>	<u>Series</u>
1	EMILY DOLVIN FILE. Undated. 1 container. Includes correspondence, notes, biographical manuscript, and audio cassettes. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.
1	TOM GORDY FILE. 1941-1944. 1 container. Includes diaries, flag, manuscript; arranged alphabetically by folder title, and chronologically thereunder.
2-3	JIMMY CARTER FILE. 1970-1985. 2 containers. Includes notes, correspondence newspaper clippings, gubernatorial and presidential campaign literature, invitations, and photographs. Arranged chronologically.

Donated Historical Material Emily Dolvin Collection

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	Emily Dolvin File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audio Cassettes, undated Biographical manuscript, undated Correspondence and Notes, undated Tom Gordy File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diary, 1941-42 Diary, 1942 Diary, 1943 Diary, 1944 Flag Prisoner of War Manuscript, 1941-45
2	Jimmy Carter File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign for Governor, 10/70-11/70 Inauguration as Governor, 11/70-1/71 Service as Governor, undated Service as Governor, 1/71-3/74 Campaigning for Governor and Service as Governor-- Photographs, 1970-1974

1976 Campaign for President, 2/74-6/76

1976 Campaign for President, 7/76-12/76

1976 Campaign for President, Campaign Handbook

1976 Campaign for President, Get out the vote, 1975-76

Presidential Inauguration, 1/77 (1)

3 Jimmy Carter File

Presidential Inauguration, 1/77 (2)

Service as President, 2/78-6/80

1980 Campaign for President, undated

1980 Campaign for President, 10/79-7/80

1980 Campaign for President, 8/80-12/80

1980 Campaign for President: Campaign Handbook

3 (Con't) Jimmy Carter File

1980 Campaign for President: Convention, 8/80

1980 Campaign for President: Florida, 5/80-9/80

1980 Campaign for President: Illinois, 10/80

1980 Campaign for President: Maine, 9/79-1/80

1980 Campaign for President: New Jersey, 5/80

1980 Campaign for President: New York, 1/80-3/80

Post-Presidency, 1/81-3/85

Photographs, 1976-1980